

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

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TAGS: USJOJC, EGEN, JO, US

SUBJECT: US-JORDAN JOINT COMMISSION - WORKING GROUP ON
TRADE AND INVESTMENT

REF: AMMAN 2830

1. DEPARTMENT AND AID HAVE REVIEWED PROPOSAL BY
DR. HANNAH ODEH AND EMBASSY IN REFTEL SUGGESTING UTILIZA-
TION OF CONSULTANT PRIOR TO MEETING OF WORKING GROUP TO
PROVIDE DEFINED FOCUS FOR WORKING GROUP DISCUSSIONS, AND
HAVE DISCUSSED PROPOSAL WITH AMBASSADOR PICKERING. WE
BELIEVE THAT SUCH A FIRST STEP WOULD BE USEFUL.

2. TO REINFORCE "JOINT" NATURE OF COMMISSION ACTIVITIES,
WE PROPOSE THAT US CONSULTANT WORK CLOSELY WITH A
DESIGNATED JORDANIAN COUNTERPART. AMBASSADOR SUGGESTS
THE MINISTER OF NATIONAL ECONOMY COULD SERVE AS KEY
JORDANIAN CONTACT AND COULD DESIGNATE SOMEONE ON HIS
STAFF TO WORK FULL-TIME WITH US CONSULTANT. US

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CONSULTANT WOULD, OF COURSE, NEED IN ADDITION FULL ACCESS

TO ALL RELEVANT JORDANIAN AGENCIES, AS WELL AS PRIVATE SECTOR.

3. WE AGREE THAT SCOPE OF WORK FOR CONSULTANT FOLLOW FRAMEWORK SET OUT IN PARA 2 OF REFTTEL CULMINATING IN A JOINT US/JORDAN DOCUMENT. MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE WOULD LOOK FOR WAYS IN WHICH JORDANIANS COULD BETTER ORGANIZE THEMSELVES TO RECEIVE POTENTIAL INVESTORS, TO SYSTEMATICALLY IDENTIFY PRIORITY AREAS, AND TO PROMOTE HIGH PRIORITY PROJECTS. THE CONSULTANT WOULD IDENTIFY AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE FOR BOTH GOVERNMENTS AGENDA ITEMS AND TOPICS FOR FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUP CONSIDERATION. THE WORKING GROUP WOULD DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS FOR POLICIES AND/OR PROGRAMS DEALING WITH PROBLEM AREAS IDENTIFIED IN THE CONSULTANT'S REPORT.

4. DEPARTMENT AND AID ARE REVIEWING CONSULTANT CANDIDATES AND DEFINING AS PRECISELY AS POSSIBLE THE SCOPE OF THE PROJECT. WE ESTIMATE CONSULTANT COULD COMPLETE HIS WORK IN 3-6 WEEKS. WE EXPECT TO ASSIGN A PERSON AS SOON AS POSSIBLE (WITHIN THE MONTH) AND ENVISAGE THE FOLLOW-ON WORKING GROUP SESSION TAKING PLACE BY EARLY AUTUMN. KISSINGER

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